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CIA's Involvement With Organizations Tame When Compared To Soviet Police

By PETER WORTHINGTON and estimated 500,000 full-time employees in exchange for his returning to

MOSCOW (NANA)—They must be chuckling in the old insurance building on Moscow's Lubyanka Street.

Nowhere will the recent "scandal" involving the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's clandestine financial support to students' organizations, labor unions and various benevolent societies be greeted with more approval than in this czarist insurance building-turned prison, which is now the headquarters of the KGB—the Soviet Secret Police.

While the pure of heart and innocent of mind tut-tut and sadly deplore the CIA's international and national activities to protect the country, few of these critics seem to be concerned with the activities of the other side, the potential enemy that opposes everything the CIA stands for.

The CIA seems tame indeed compared to the KGB.

Anyone who has lived or worked in the Soviet Union quickly realizes the depth to which the KGB influences Soviet life.

There is not a single office or organization in Russia that is not "penetrated" actively by the KGB. Officers and informers riddle the army, the universities, embassies, dwelling places and even the most menial and routine of jobs.

The KGB don't have to worry about funds or red tape: They are, or have been, a law unto themselves. Their power, while no longer absolute, is still greater than any other in the Soviet Union. The KGB often determines national policy.

The CIA's annual \$500 million budget and 15,000 employees can hardly be compared to the KGB's unlimited financial resources

and estimated 500,000 full-time employees.

The KGB and the GRU are the two main security networks of the Soviet Union. The KGB is both defensive and offensive, while the less powerful GRU is strictly military intelligence.

The KGB and GRU are "rivals"—as one Russian once put it to me.

The KGB has, in fact, infiltrated into the GRU and also spies on itself.

At the moment, with the Soviet Union striving to become "respectable" like other civilized countries, the KGB is waging an unprecedented publicity campaign to improve its image.

Few Russians are convinced; everyone over 30 has personal memories and anecdotes of KGB excesses, ranging from midnight knocks and sudden disappearances, to endless interrogations and purgings of so-called enemies of the people.

If the KGB machine is relatively quiet at the moment, it has hardly been dismantled. It is a dangerous subject to investigate.

During two years in Moscow I have written only one article about the secret police—a long, detailed, more-or-less historical piece. Though my facts weren't disputed, I was twice scolded by the foreign ministry for writing it. I was warned I would be expelled from the Soviet Union.

Therefore—I avoided further snipings at the KGB.

I had an Ethiopian friend in Moscow who was a medical student at Patrice Lumumba "Friendship" University in Moscow. His professor, who apparently also doubled as a KGB officer, tried to bribe him with first-class honors in his exams

his country and plotting against Emperor Haile Selassie.

Lumumba University in Moscow is primarily for African, Asian and Latin American students and is generally regarded as a breeding ground for KGB recruiting.

The late Col. Oleg Penkovsky, a GRU officer whom the Soviets shot for spying, estimated that 60 to 70 per cent of Soviet embassy and trade officials posted abroad were working for the KGB or GRU.

Any foreigner in Moscow employing a translator knows that the person is also working for the KGB and reporting on him and may even be involved in more sinister forms of subversion.

The smiling intourist girl whom foreign tourists so admire may also be a KGB agent reporting on conversations she overhears, and assessing character oddities of her clients for possible future exploitation by the KGB.

Every Soviet diplomat or would-be diplomat attends a special academy that is staffed with KGB and GRU officers.

There are also said to be special towns in the USSR, modelled on western lines, where agents get training for illegal entry into the west.

Since the start of the Soviet regime 50 years ago, the ruthless secret police force has had to answer to no one.

Whenever its reputation has gotten too sinister, it has changed its name—CHEKA, OGPU, NKVD, MVD, KGB, they are all the same.

Just after the revolution and subsequent civil war, when Russia was filled with homeless orphans and "wild" children

(called "besprizorniki"), the CHEKA organized colonies and schools for them. Food was better, conditions were more comfortable, and the colonies became breeding grounds for future Chekists.

Where the CIA often seems regarded as something unwholesome and apart from American life—almost laboring to defend the security of the nation despite the public opinion of the nation—the KGB has no such obstacles.

"Eternal vigilance" is a Soviet rallying cry, a perpetual slogan aimed at involving the whole nation in opposing the evil influences of the "bourgeois west" which Soviet propaganda depicts as a relentless enemy of socialism.

Soviet propaganda still refers to security forces as: "Our glorious Chekists."

I know of a case where a KGB officer accidentally killed a pedestrian with his car. As soon as the militiaman realized who the motorist was, he turned his back and looked the other way while the KGB man drove off.

The KGB runs its own schools, and likely students in Russia are conscripted to study there and to learn the methods of security work.

Though no publicity is given to it, KGB officers have been